

Chapter 5 – The Church Consolidates (325-451)

1. The Role of the Church Councils
 - a. *Councils are meetings of church leaders where important questions are discussed, advice is carefully given, and decisions are made*
 - b. *The first council was the Council of the Apostles in Jerusalem on extending the church to the gentiles; Regional, National, General/Ecumenical*
2. The Council of Nicaea
 - a. *The first national or ecumenical council (325) to answer the divinity of Christ as God the Son and as God the Father (**Christ as God**)*
 - b. *Arius believed that the belief of Jesus and the Father would bring back Christians to heathenism because of polytheism and proclaimed that Jesus is a subordinate god; Athanasius thought that Jesus is God Himself*
 - c. *The council was convened in Nicaea, more than 72 kilometers from Constantinople attended by more than 300 bishops*
 - d. *The Nicene Creed was conceived that Christ is God (co-substantial), and thus proclaimed Jesus' deity – the church wrestled with this issue for 60 to 70 years before adopting it; it did not end the Arian Controversy though*
3. The Council of Constantinople
 - a. *The 2nd National or ecumenical council (381) to answer the deity of the Holy Spirit and relationship to the Father and the Son (**Holy Spirit as God**)*
 - b. *When Athanasius died, the burden of apology went to the "three great Cappadocians" – Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus, and Gregory of Nissa (province of Cappadocia), because Arius and his followers refused to accept the Nicene Creed*
4. The Council of Chalcedon
 - a. *The 4th Council (451) to answer the nature of Christ (**Christ is both Man and God**)*
5. Ambrose
 - a. *In 374 Ambrose "accidentally" becomes the Bishop of Milan during a disorderly election of a new bishop because some members of the church wanted to elect a bishop with Arian beliefs while some don't; Ambrose was the governor of Milan during this time and realized that the accident was a calling from God*
 - b. *An upright man who strongly believe in the Nicene Creed; he upheld high standard of Christian living that he rebukes Emperor Theodosius for massacring thousands of Thessalonians*
6. Jerome
 - a. *A monk who lived in Jerusalem (born in Dalmatia, educated in Rome) until his death translated the Old and the New Testament scriptures to Latin (called Vulgate) from the original Hebrew (and not from the Septuagint)*
7. "A Son of Many Prayers Cannot Be Lost"
 - a. *A great man plunged into wickedness as a young man but became one of the champions of faith for the church (due to his reading of Romans 13:13-14)*
8. Augustine Defends and Expounds Scripture
 - a. *Augustine becomes the bishop of Hippo until his death in 430*
 - b. *Donatists – so-called because of their leader Donatus; they are orthodox (and not heretics) but schismatics (Schism – causing division); the Donatists does not want to re-admit Christians who denied their faith during the Diocletian persecution*
 - c. *Pelagianism – after the founder Pelagius, who said that the fall of Adam did not affect his descendants – this was condemned as a Heresy in the Council of Ephesus in 431 (Man is totally depraved) (Semi-Pelagians – condemned in 529 in the Synod of Orange)*
9. The Metropolitan and Patriarchal System
 - a. *Metropolitan Bishops – Patriarchs (Rome, Constantinople, Jerusalem, Antioch, and Alexandria)*
 - b. *Leo I – declared Pope (papa) over supremacy in the West – the last of the Ancients, and the first of the Medieval*